fairs and festivals. In addition the Government have a scheme under which incentives are giveli to enter-preneurs for setting up of hotels in rural areas of the country.

Decline in the number of foreign tourists visiting Maharashtra

217. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Tourism inflows from other countries to India and particularly in the State of Maharashtra has dampened;

(b) i'f so, the reasons therefor and the steps proposed to be taken by Government to boost the tourism; and

(c) the number of foreign tourists having visited Maharashtra during the year 1989 and 1990?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI USHA SINGH); (a) Yes, Sir.

(a) The disturbances in some parts of the country and the adverse reporting of these events in the overseas markets, international developments like, Gulf crisis, restructuring of economy in Soviet Russia, etc. are the main reasons for the decline in tourist traffic. The steps taken by the Government for boosting tourism include diversification of tourism resources, development of new circuits, relaxation of rules relating to issue of visa and restricted area permits, etc., provision of money changing facilities in approved hotels, etc.

(b) Comparable figures of tourist arrivals in Maharashtra during 1990 are not available from the State Government. However, as per the disembarkation statistics available 488,681 foreign tourists disembarked at Bombay Airport till November 1990 as compared to 496,719 disembarkations during the same period in the previous year.

Creation of Heritage Hotels

218. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to create new type of Hotels - to be called 'Heritage Hotels' by converting Historical Buildings and Havelies into Hotels- and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI USHA SINGH); (a) and Ob) Government propose to include Heritage Hotels as a classification standard along with one to five star categories. The category is being introduced to cover running hotels that have been built in traditional Residences. This is being intorduced in Rajasthan at the first instance in consultation with State Government and hotel owners, as a voluntary scheme

Loss due to Natural Calamities

219. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAM-RAO PATIL; Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the States/Union territories affected by floods, heavy rains and land slides during the last three years;

(to) the estimated loss caused by the natural calamities to property, crops, human lives and number of persons rendered homeless during the above period in each State;

(c) the Central assistance sought by each State;

(d) whether Government have any proposal to face such types of natural calamities effectively; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAYANTILAL VIRCHAND-BHAI SHAH); (a) and (b) States/ U.Ts. wise details of damage to life and properties due to floods, heavy rains and land slides, as reported by them, during the years 1987-88, 1988-89 and 1989-90 are given at Annexure I. IT and III respectively. [See Apendix CLVI. Annexure No 7]